

## Message Text

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DRAFTED BY: NEA:AEGRIFFIN:BH

APPROVED BY: NEA:AEGRIFFIN

S/S:JHOGANSON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 104087

NODIS

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE FROM BEIRUT APRIL 29:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 3827

NODIS

DEPT PASS SECRETARY IN KINSHASA

DEPT FOR ATHERTON AND DEAN BROWN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LE

SUBJ: LEBANESE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS

REF : BEIRUT 3822

1. JUMBLATT SOURCE INFORMS ME THAT DISCUSSIONS THIS AFTERNOON  
BETWEEN SARKIS AND JUMBLATT WENT VERY WELL. DIFFERENCES ARE REALLY  
IN FIELD OF PERSONALITIES RATHER THAN PRINCIPLES.

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2. SOURCE MAINTAINS THAT BRIEF DELAY BEYOND MAY 1 DATE NEEDED FOR ARRANGING SOME FACE-SAVING PROCEDURE. DOES NOT BELIEVE MAY 1 DATE CAN BE KEPT. JUMBLATT IN POSITION TO CREATE SECURITY SITUATION UNFAVORABLE TO ELECTIONS ON PROJECTED DATE AND INTENDS TO DO SO. (I AM UNFORTUNATELY OBLIGED TO AGREE WITH THIS JUDGMENT.)

3. IN SOURCE'S VIEW, KEY LIES WITH SYRIA. IF SYRIA COULD INVITE JUMBLATT AND HANDLE HIM PROPERLY, IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO OBTAIN JUMBLATT'S CONCURRENCE FOR SARKIS.

4. IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT SARKIS IS PASSING THIS MESSAGE ON TO SYRIA. HOWEVER, SOURCE PLEADED FOR ANY ASSISTANCE WE MIGHT BE IN A POSITION TO RENDER WITH RESPECT TO ENCOURAGING SYRIANS ALONG SUGGESTED LINES. STREAM OF COMMENTS AGAINST JUMBLATT BY LOCAL BAATS REPRESENTATIVE KANSO HAVE INFURIATED JUMBLATT AND AND ANTI-JUMBLATT REMARKS IN KUWAIT BY KHADDAM HAVE MADE MATTERS EVEN WORSE.

5. I QUESTIONED SOURCE ABOUT WHAT KIND OF DELAY JUMBLATT HAD IN MIND. HE REPLIED THAT IT WAS LESS THAN A WEEK. I RECALLED JUMBLATT'S REMARKS ABOUT THE POSSIBLE ILLEGALITY OF PARLIAMENTARY ACTS AFTER MAY 2. HE SAID THAT JUMBLATT WOULD NOT HAVE RECOURSE TO THIS LINE OF ARGUMENT IF THE DELAY WERE ARRANGED.

6. SOURCE STRESSED THAT FATE OF COUNTRY DEPENDED ON AGREEMENT AMONG GEMAYEL, JUMBLATT AND THE SYRIANS. (IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO FAULT THIS BELIEF TO ANY GREAT EXTENT.) GETTING GEMAYEL TOGETHER WITH JUMBLATT THEREFORE WAS ALSO AS IMPORTANT AS GETTING JUMBLATT TOGETHER WITH THE SYRIANS. HE ASKED FOR ASSISTANCE IN A JUMBLATT-GEMAYEL GET-TOGETHER IN ADDITION TO WHAT WE COULD DO VIS-A-VIS SYRIANS.

7. I WAS OF COURSE NON-COMMITTAL IN EACH CASE. SAID I WOULD REPORT OUR TALK. CAN OBVIOUSLY DO NOTHING ABOUT SYRIANS BUT WILL SEE TO IT DISCREETLY THAT GEMAYEL GETS THE MESSAGE. WARING UNQUOTE SISCO

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## Message Attributes

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